

10599340

# Document made available under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT)

International application number: PCT/GB05/000197

International filing date: 21 January 2005 (21.01.2005)

Document type: Certified copy of priority document

Document details: Country/Office: GB  
Number: 0401326.4  
Filing date: 22 January 2004 (22.01.2004)

Date of receipt at the International Bureau: 02 March 2005 (02.03.2005)

Remark: Priority document submitted or transmitted to the International Bureau in  
compliance with Rule 17.1(a) or (b)



World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) - Geneva, Switzerland  
Organisation Mondiale de la Propriété Intellectuelle (OMPI) - Genève, Suisse



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

The Patent Office  
Concept House  
Cardiff Road  
Newport  
South Wales  
NP10 8QQ

I, the undersigned, being an officer duly authorised in accordance with Section 74(1) and (4) of the Deregulation & Contracting Out Act 1994, to sign and issue certificates on behalf of the Comptroller-General, hereby certify that annexed hereto is a true copy of the documents as originally filed in connection with the patent application identified therein.

In accordance with the Patents (Companies Re-registration) Rules 1982, if a company named in this certificate and any accompanying documents has re-registered under the Companies Act 1980 with the same name as that with which it was registered immediately before re-registration save for the substitution as, or inclusion as, the last part of the name of the words "public limited company" or their equivalents in Welsh, references to the name of the company in this certificate and any accompanying documents shall be treated as references to the name with which it is so re-registered.

In accordance with the rules, the words "public limited company" may be replaced by p.l.c., plc, P.L.C. or PLC.

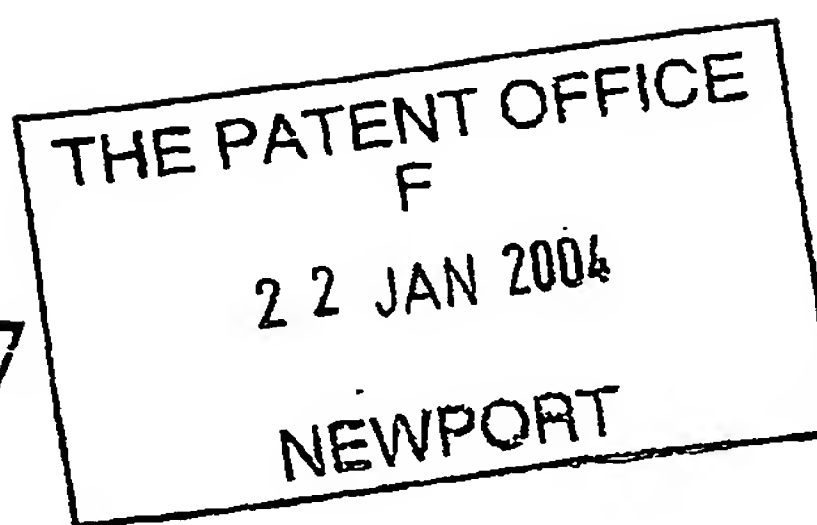
Re-registration under the Companies Act does not constitute a new legal entity but merely subjects the company to certain additional company law rules.



Signed

Dated 9 February 2005

# Patents Form 1/77



The Patent Office  
Cardiff Road  
Newport  
NP9 1RH

## Request for grant of a patent

		22JAN04 E867271-4 002846	
		P01/7700 0.00-0401326.4 ACCOUNT CHA	
1. Your Reference	PLB/CLD/Y2043		
2. Application number		0401326.4	22 JAN 2004
3. Full name, address and postcode of the or each Applicant	Burnden Holdings (UK) Limited		
	Burnden Works		
	Burnden Road		
Country/state of incorporation (if applicable)	Bolton		
	BL2 2RB 8567422001		
	Incorporated in: England & Wales		
4. Title of the invention	IMPROVEMENTS IN AND RELATING TO GLAZING COMPONENT CONNECTION		
5. Name of agent	APPLEYARD LEES		
Address for service in the UK to which all correspondence should be sent	15 CLARE ROAD HALIFAX HX1 2HY		
Patents ADP number	190001 ✓		
6. Priority claimed to:	Country	Application number	Date of filing
7. Divisional status claimed from:	Number of parent application		Date of filing
8. Is a statement of inventorship and of right to grant a patent required in support of this application?	YES		

9. Enter the number of sheets for any of the following items you are filing with this form. Do not count copies of the same document

Continuation sheets of this form

Description 11 x 2 ✓

Claim(s)

Abstract

Drawing(s) 5 x 2 ✓

10. If you are also filing any of the following, state how many against each item

Priority documents

Translation of priority documents

Statement of inventorship and right to grant a patent (PF 7/77)

Request for a preliminary examination and search (PF 9/77)

Request for substantive examination (PF 10/77)

Any other documents (please specify)

11.

We request the grant of a patent on the basis of this application.

Signature

Date

APPLEYARD LEES

21 January 2004

*Appleyard Lees*

12. Contact

Paul Brandon- 0161 835 9655

Improvements in and Relating to Glazing Component  
Connection

Field of the Invention

5

The present invention relates to glazing component connectors, glazing components connected by such connectors, structures incorporating such components, methods of connection of glazing components and methods of constructing structures incorporating such components.

10

Background to the Invention

The present invention is particularly, though not exclusively, concerned with conservatory structures and their assembly.

15

In the construction of conservatory structures, a variety of connectors is required for various components within the structure. Such connections need to be quick, simple, robust and suitable for the wide variety of conservatory configurations provided in the modern market. Additionally, for the connection of a number of components, some angular flexibility is required. For instance, when a glazing bar is connected to a hip, the angle of their connection can vary between conservatory designs. Accordingly, a connector for connecting such components needs to provide the necessary amount of angular variation. Typically, the connection angle variation of up to about 40° is required.

20

25

30

Preferred embodiments of the present invention aim to obviate or overcome a disadvantage of the prior art,

whether such disadvantage or prior art is referred to herein or otherwise.

Summary of the Invention

5

According to the present invention in a first aspect, there is provided a glazing component connector comprising a first part and a second part, the first part comprising a head for reception by a complementary channel, from  
10 which head extends a shank for enabling connection to another glazing component, and a locking clip for locating about the head thereby to secure the first part to the channel.

15

Suitably, the locking clip is generally C-shaped. Suitably, the ends of the C-shaped clip comprise diverging feet.

20

Suitably, the locking clip comprises at least one hole therethrough. Suitably, the hole is suitable for receiving a grub screw for securing the first part in position. Suitably, the hole is opposite the open part of the C-shaped clip. Suitably, the clip comprises three holes  
25 therethrough. Suitably, the locking clip comprises a shaped part to receive the shank of the first part.

Suitably, the locking clip comprises a guide tab extending therefrom.

30

Suitably, the head comprises a truncated ball.

Suitably, the shank comprises an external thread

According to the present invention in a second aspect, there is provided a first glazing component comprising a channel, a glazing component connector according to the first aspect of the present invention, wherein the head  
5 fits within the channel and the locking clip fits between the outside of the head and the inside of the channel, and a second a glazing component connected to the first glazing component by the first part of the glazing component connector.

10

Suitably, the channel is a longitudinal channel.

Effectively, the locking clip increases the diameter of the head whereby the head can no longer be removed from  
15 the channel through the longitudinal opening therein formed by the channel. Thus, the head of the first part can be inserted into the channel through the longitudinal opening therein and the locking clip can be slid over the head axially.

20

Suitably, the channel is generally C-shaped.

Suitably, the first glazing component comprises a component selected from one of an eaves beam, a hip  
25 rafter, wall plate and a valley.

Suitably, the angle of the first glazing component relative to the second glazing component can be varied by pivotal movement of the connector.

30

According to the present invention in a third aspect, there is provided a structure comprising a first glazing component connected to a second glazing component in a

manner according to the second aspect of the present invention.

Suitably, the structure comprises a conservatory  
5 structure.

According to the present invention in a fourth aspect, there is provided a method of connection of a first glazing component to a second a glazing component, the  
10 first glazing component comprising a channel, the method comprising the steps of providing a glazing component connector according to the first aspect of the present invention, inserting one of the first part and the second part into the channel of the first glazing component,  
15 inserting the other of the first part and the second part into the channel of the first glazing component and connecting the second the glazing component to the first glazing component using the shank of the first part.

20 Suitably, the first part is inserted into the channel before the second part. Suitably, the channel comprises a longitudinal opening therein, and the first part is inserted into the longitudinal opening of the channel. Suitably, the locking clip is moved axially over the first  
25 part.

Alternatively, the channel comprises a longitudinal opening therein, and the locking clip is inserted into the longitudinal opening of the channel. Suitably, the first  
30 part is inserted axially into the channel inside the glazing clip.



According to the present invention in a fifth aspect, there is provided a method of constructing a structure, which method comprises connecting a first glazing component to a second glazing component according to the  
5 fourth aspect of the present invention.

Suitably, the structure is a conservatory structure.

#### Brief Description of the Drawings

10

The present invention will now be described, by way of example only, with reference to the drawings that follow; in which:

15

Figure 1 is an end elevation of a glazing component connector according to the present invention in a first glazing component.

20

Figure 2 is an exploded view of Figure 1.

Figure 3 is an end elevation showing the first part of the glazing component connector being inserted into the first glazing component.

25

Figure 4 is an end elevation showing the second part of the glazing component connector being inserted into the first glazing component.

30

Figure 5 is a functional flow diagram of a method according to the present invention.

Figure 6 is a plan of the view of a first embodiment of a glazing component connector second part.

Figure 7 is a cross-sectional end view of the part shown in Figure 6.

5        Figure 8 is a plan view of a second embodiment of a glazing component connector second part.

Figure 9 is a plan view of a third embodiment of a glazing component connector second part.

10

Figure 10 is a schematic perspective elevation of a conservatory structure incorporating glazing components connected according to the present invention.

15        Figure 11 is an enlarged cross-sectional end view of the glazing component connector of Figure 1 showing the range of angles it can adopt.

#### Description of the Preferred Embodiments

20

Referring to figure 1 of the drawings that follow, there is shown a glazing component connector 10 comprising a first part 12 and a second part 14, which glazing component connector 10 is located in a C-shaped channel 16 of a first glazing component 18, in this case an eaves beam.

Referring additionally to figure 2 of the drawings that follow, the first part 12 comprises a head 20 and a shank 22. The head 20 consists of a truncated sphere, and from which extends the shank 22 which has a threaded portion 24. First part 12 is formed from a steel casting or the like.

30

Second part 14 is a locking clip which comprises an elongate member, generally C-shaped in cross section, from the open part of which C-shape extend two diverging feet 26. Approximately centrally located in the C-shaped part of the locking clip 14 are three holes 28, 30, 32 (see figures 6-10). A tab 33 is provided at one end of the locking clip 14. The locking clip 14 is pressed from sprung steel.

10

First glazing component 18 can be a generally standard component except that it provides the C-shaped channel 16 extending from end-to-end for approximately 270°. Channel 16 has open ends 34. First glazing component 18 is a plastics extrusion. Channel 16 extends longitudinally along the length of first glazing component of 18 and the open ends 34 form a longitudinal opening in the C-shaped channel 16.

20 As can be seen from figures 3 and 4 of the drawings that follow, the head 20 of first part 12 can pass into channel 16 of the first glazing component 18 through the open ends 34 of channel 16. Similarly, locking clip 14 can also pass into channel 16 of the first glazing component 25 18 through the open ends 34 of channel 16. In the case of locking clip 14, its normal diameter is greater than the spacing between the open ends 34, but it can be squeezed by using feet 26 to fit in channel 16.

30 In this embodiment, the external diameter of head 20 is approximately 0.5 mm smaller than the internal diameter of the C-shaped channel 16 and the glazing clip thickness is just less than 0.5 mm.

Referring to figure 5 of the drawings that follow, a method of use of the glazing component connector 10 will now be described.

5

In step 100 the first glazing component 18 having a C-shaped channel 16 is provided. In step 102 a glazing component connector 10 is provided. In step 104 head 20 of first part 12 is inserted into C-shaped channel 16 through the longitudinal opening therein. Tab 33 can aid the insertion of the head 20, acting as a guide. In step 106 the locking clip 14 is slid axially into the gap between the outside of head 20 and the inside of the C-shaped channel 16. In practice the position desired for the glazing component connector 10 may be spaced significantly from either end of the glazing component 18, in which case (or otherwise) both the first and second parts 12, 14 can be inserted into the longitudinal gap of C-shaped channel 16, and then the glazing clip 14 can be slid axially (relative to the longitudinal axis of the C-shaped channel 16) over the head 20 of first part 12.

In an alternative step 106, instead the locking clip 14 can be inserted into C-shaped channel 16 first and then the head 20 of first part 12 can be slid axially into glazing clip 14.

In step 108, the shank 22 of first part 12 is located at the desired angle and a grub screw 36 (Figure 11) is inserted through the base of C-shaped channel 16 to engage with a flat 38 (Figure 2) of head 20. Figure 11 of the drawings that follow illustrates the range of angles the first part 12 can adopt in the C-shaped channel 16, over a

range of  $41^\circ$ . Thus, the angle of the first glazing component relative to the second glazing component can be varied by pivotal movement of the connector. The centre of rotation of the pivoting action is within head 20.

5

In step 110 a second glazing component 40, such as in this case a hip rafter, is connected to first glazing component 18 using the shank 22 of first part 12 typically this will involve passing the shank to 22 into a hole in the second glazing component 40 and using a nut (not shown) to secure the second glazing component 40 in place. Alternatively, first part 12 is bolted to second glazing component 40 before being connected to first glazing component. Instead of a nut, the shank can tap into a port.

15

Figures 6-9 show various embodiments of locking clip 14. In the embodiment of figures 8 and 9, the glazing clip 14 does not include the diverging feet 26. However the edge of the C-shaped includes a shaped portion 42 for receiving a part of the shank 22, helping to locate the shank 22 in place and stop it from moving unhelpfully when the second glazing component 40 is being located.

20

Referring to figure 9 of the drawings that follow, there is shown a third embodiment of a glazing clip 14, the end view of which is similar to figure 9.

25

Referring to figure 10 of the drawings that follow, there is shown a conservatory structure 100 comprising a plurality of glazing components connected using the glazing component connector described herein.

30

Thus, preferred embodiments of the present invention provide a glazing component connector that is simple to use, reliable and robust yet flexible in its applications.

5        Although described hearing a relation to the connection of an eaves beam to another glazing component, the glazing component connector 10 is not limited to eaves beams and can be used for, for instance, hips, valleys and wall plates.

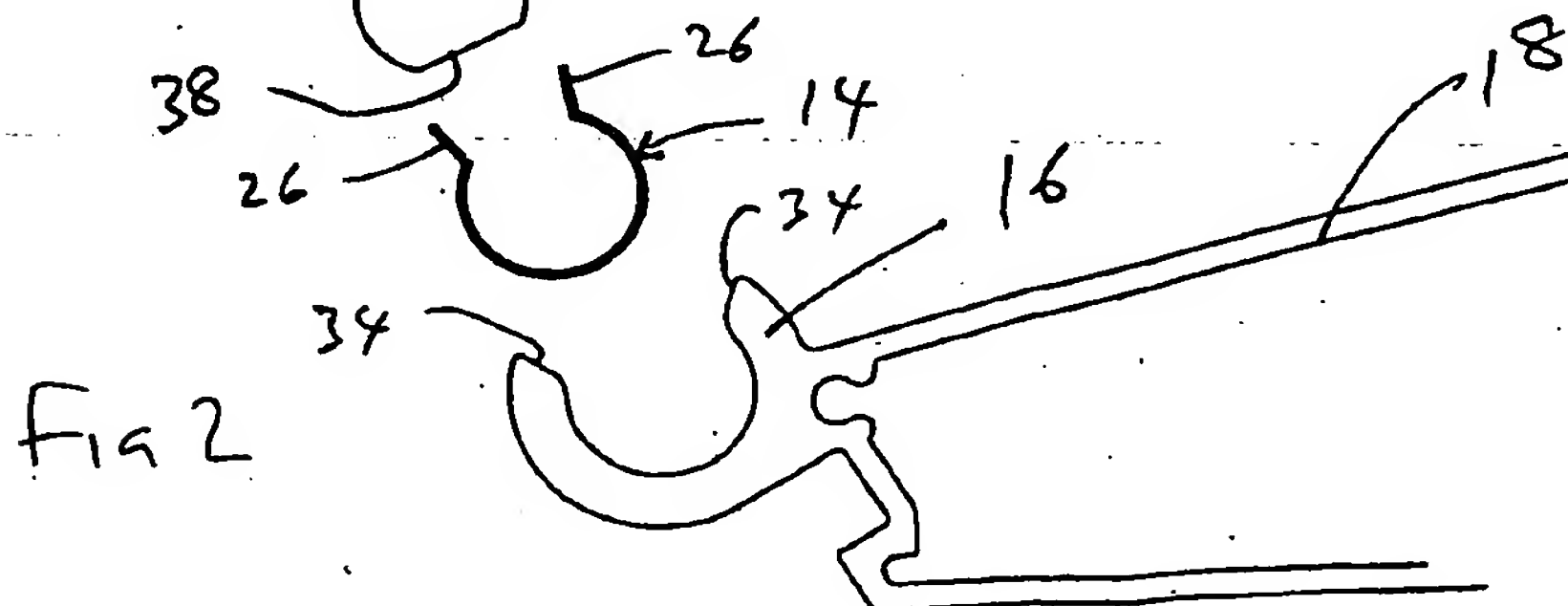
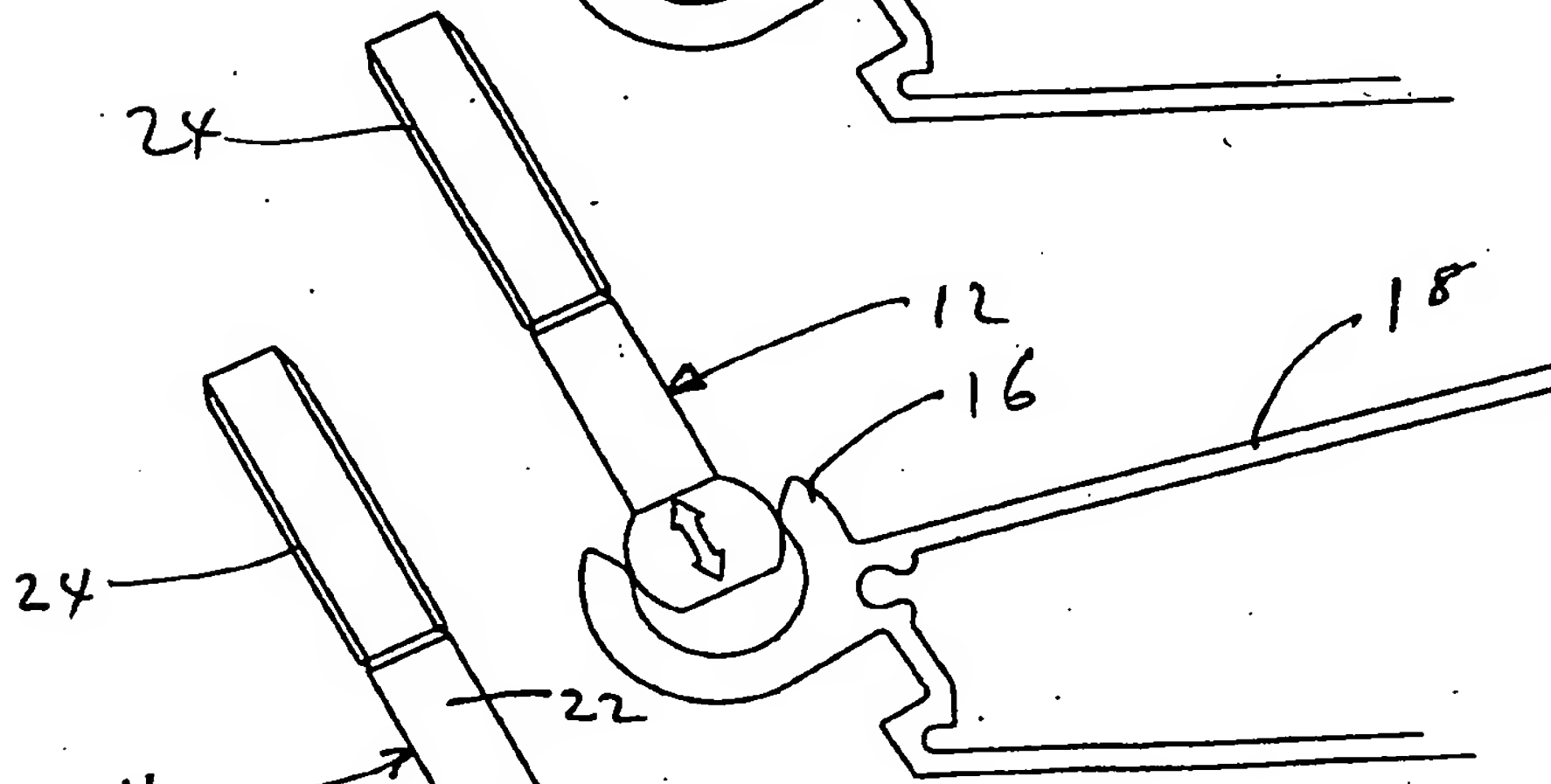
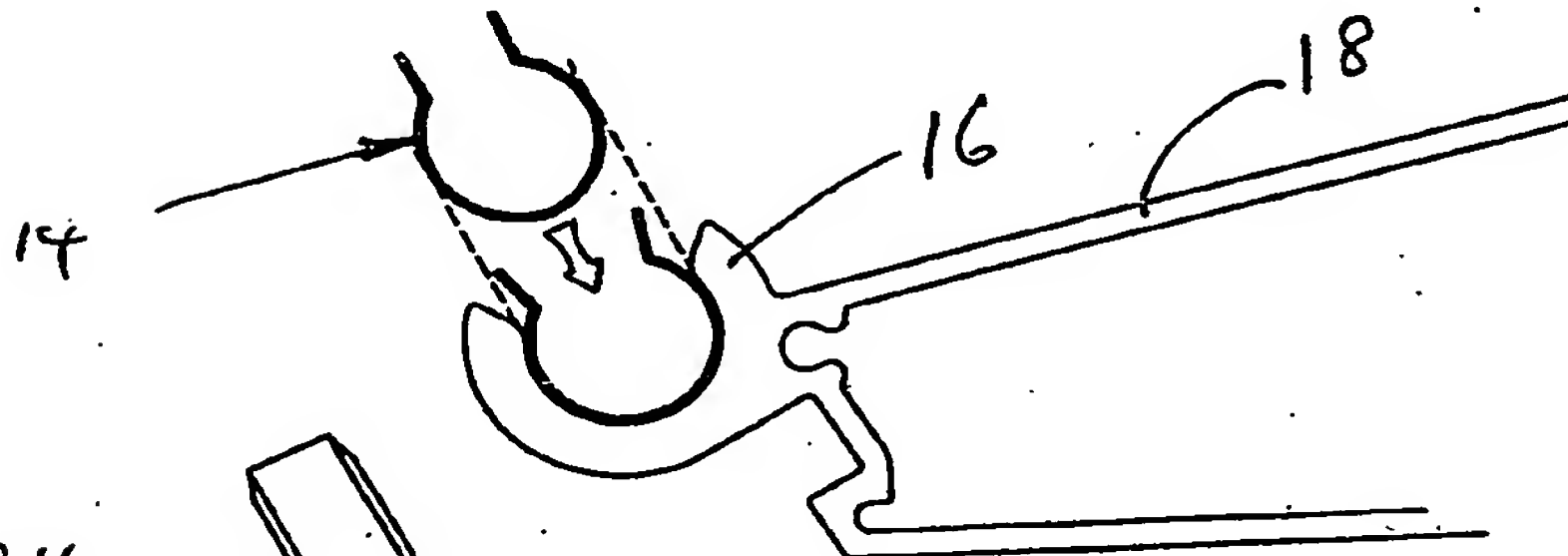
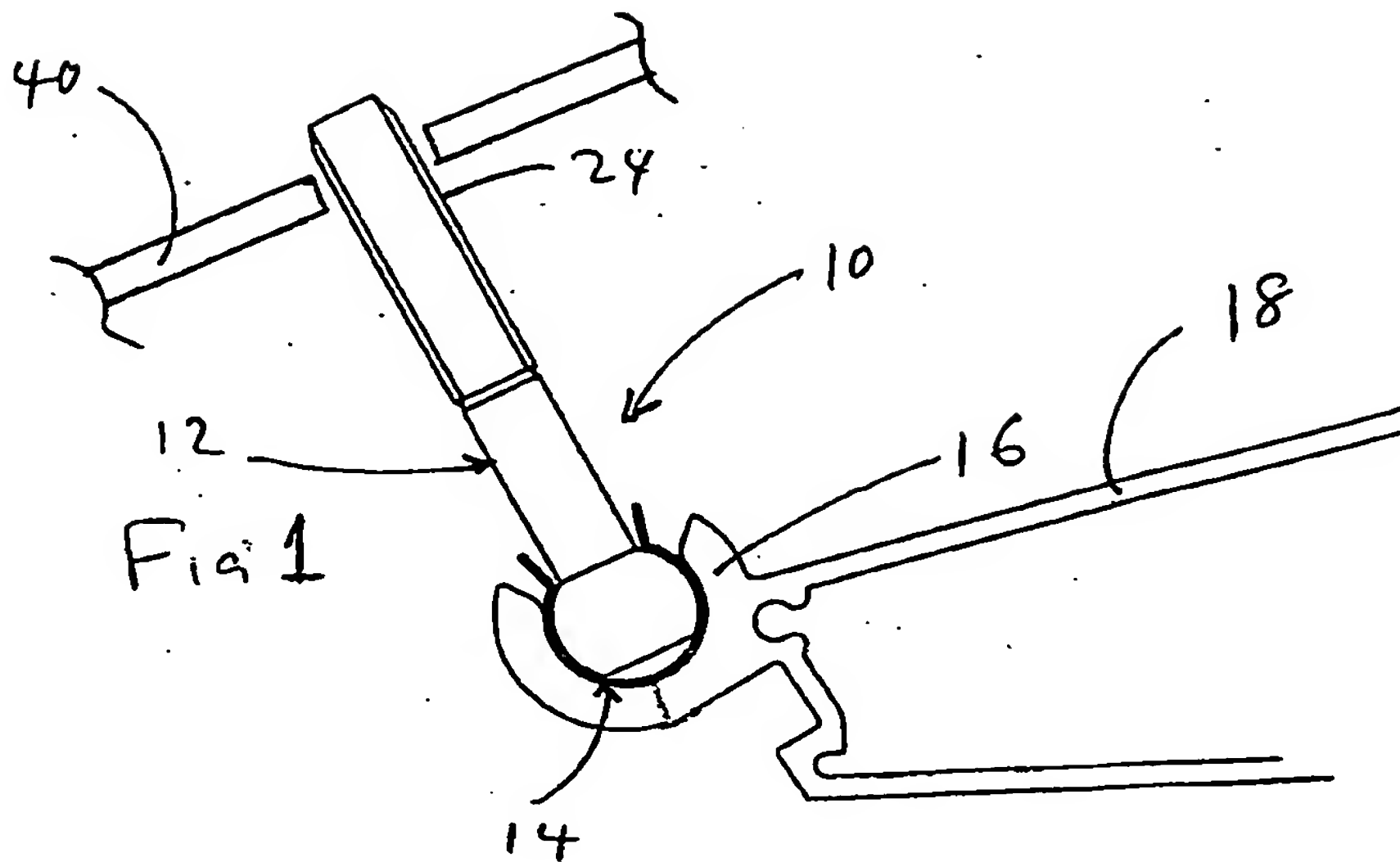
10

Attention is directed to all papers and documents which are filed concurrently with or previous to this specification in connection with this application and which are open to public inspection with this  
15       specification, and the contents of all such papers and documents are incorporated herein by reference.

All of the features disclosed in this specification (including any accompanying claims, abstract and  
20       drawings), and/or all of the steps of any method or process so disclosed, may be combined in any combination, except combinations where at least some of such features and/or steps are mutually exclusive.

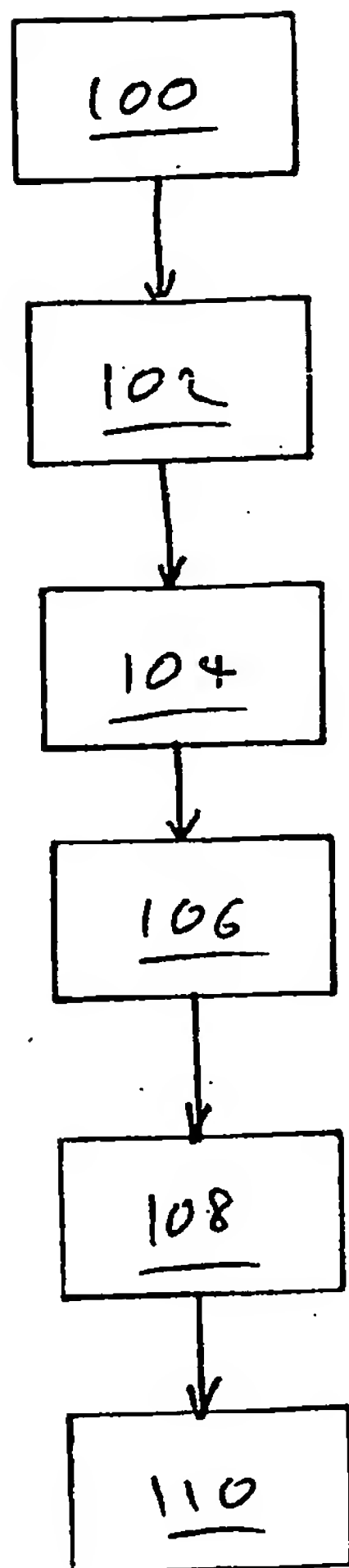
25       Each feature disclosed in this specification (including any accompanying claims, abstract and drawings) may be replaced by alternative features serving the same, equivalent or similar purpose, unless expressly stated otherwise. Thus, unless expressly stated otherwise, each  
30       feature disclosed is one example only of a generic series of equivalent or similar features.

The invention is not restricted to the details of the foregoing embodiment(s). The invention extends to any novel one, or any novel combination, of the features disclosed in this specification (including any  
5 accompanying claims, abstract and drawings), or to any novel one, or any novel combination, of the steps of any method or process so disclosed.





F195



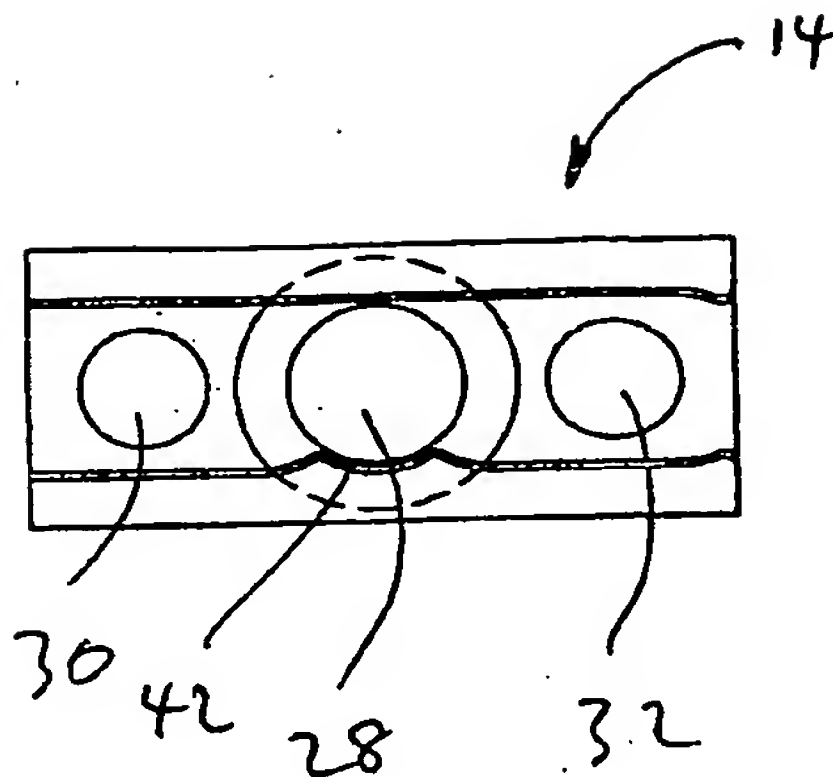


FIG 9

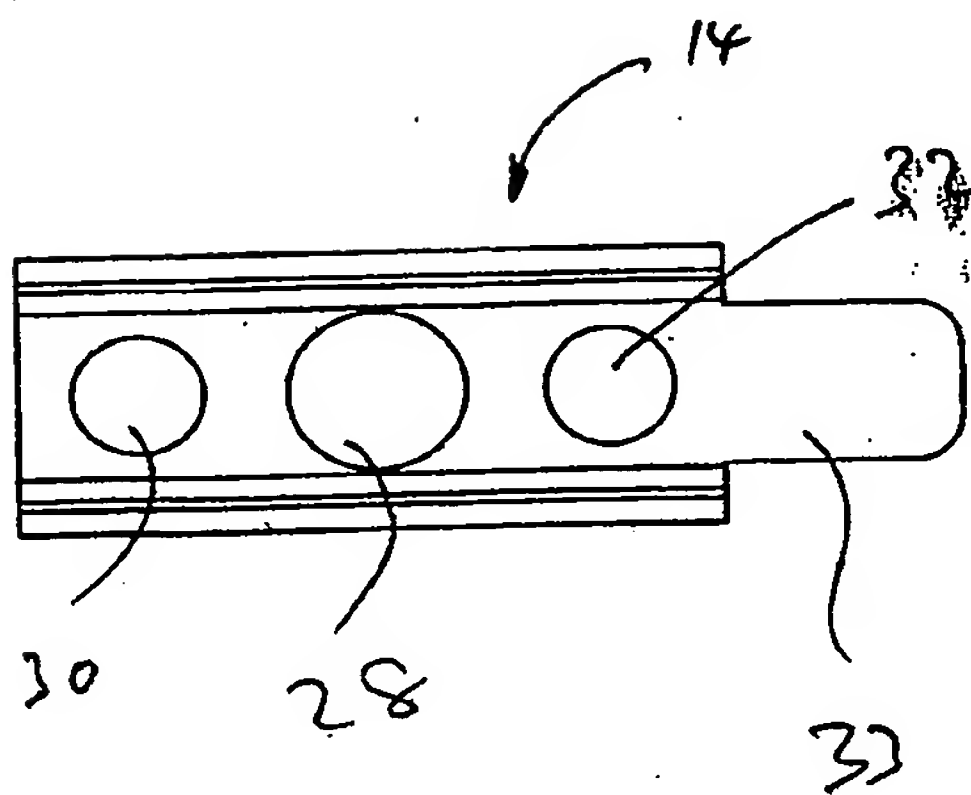


FIG 6

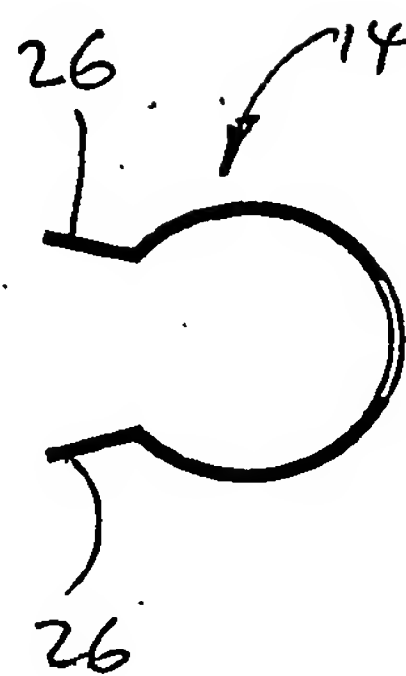


FIG 7

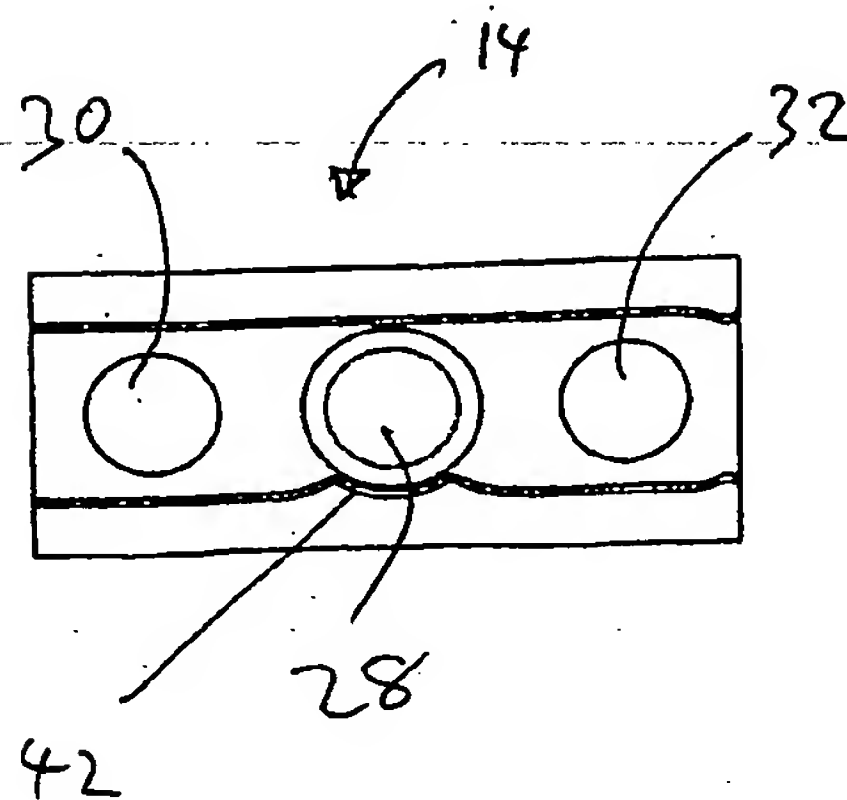


FIG 8

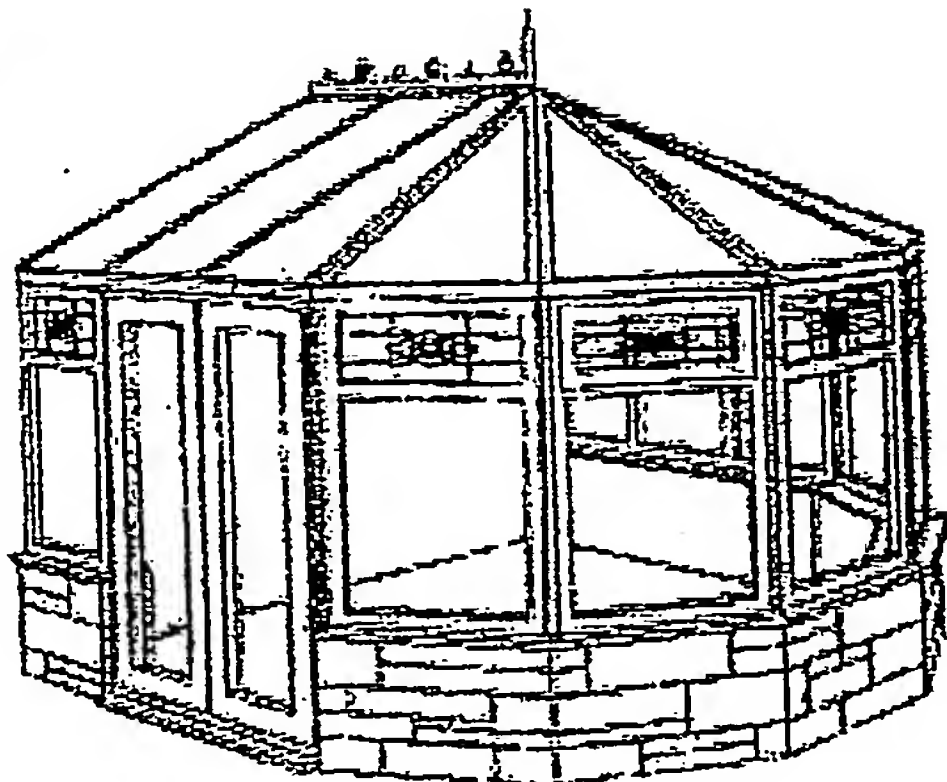


FIG 10

← 100

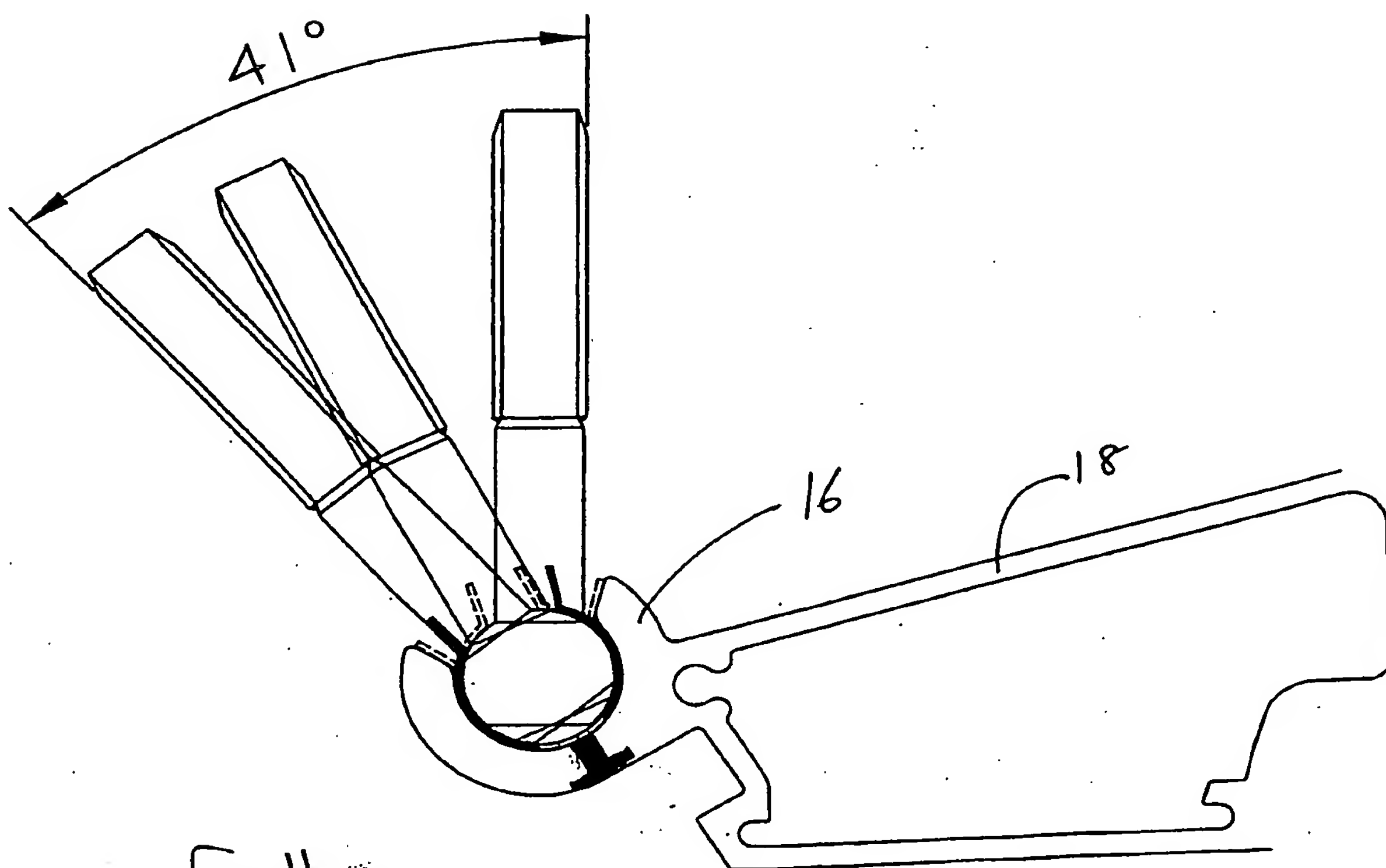
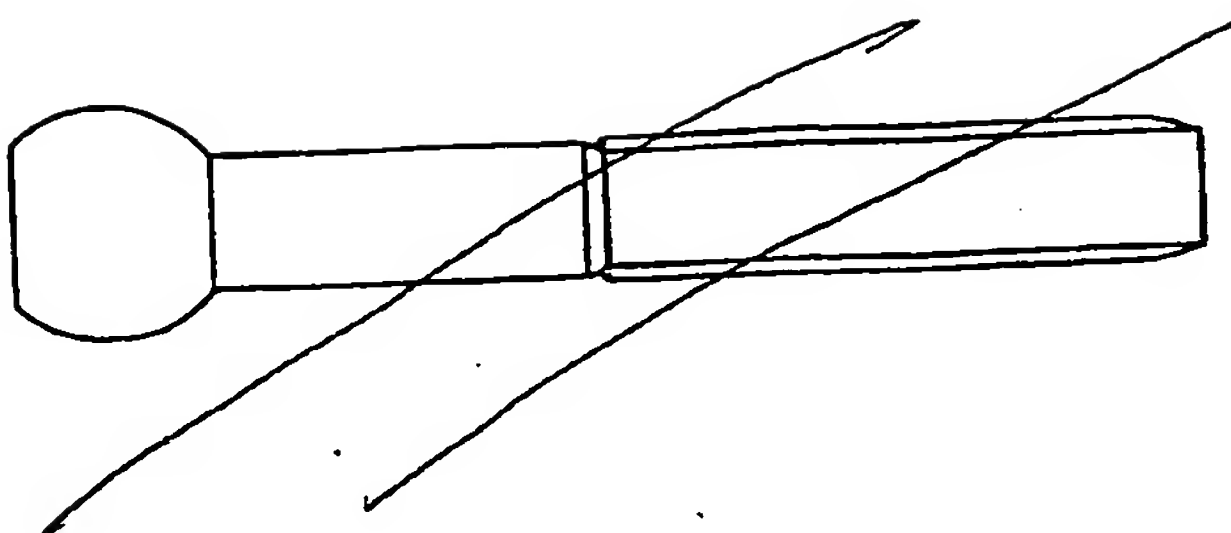


Fig. 1

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

## PCT

NOTIFICATION CONCERNING  
SUBMISSION OR TRANSMITTAL  
OF PRIORITY DOCUMENT

(PCT Administrative Instructions, Section 411)

To:

NEILL, Alastair, William  
Appleyard Lees  
15 Clare Road  
Halifax HX1 2HY  
ROYAUME-UNI

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 11 April 2005 (11.04.2005)	
Applicant's or agent's file reference PLB/CLD/Y4611	IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION
International application No. PCT/GB05/000197	International filing date (day/month/year) 21 January 2005 (21.01.2005)
International publication date (day/month/year)	Priority date (day/month/year) 22 January 2004 (22.01.2004)
Applicant BURNDEN HOLDINGS (UK) LIMITED et al	

- By means of this Form, which replaces any previously issued notification concerning submission or transmittal of priority documents, the applicant is hereby notified of the date of receipt by the International Bureau of the priority document(s) relating to all earlier application(s) whose priority is claimed. Unless otherwise indicated by the letters "NR", in the right-hand column or by an asterisk appearing next to a date of receipt, the priority document concerned was submitted or transmitted to the International Bureau in compliance with Rule 17.1(a) or (b).
- (If applicable)* The letters "NR" appearing in the right-hand column denote a priority document which, on the date of mailing of this Form, had not yet been received by the International Bureau under Rule 17.1(a) or (b). Where, under Rule 17.1(a), the priority document must be submitted by the applicant to the receiving Office or the International Bureau, but the applicant fails to submit the priority document within the applicable time limit under that Rule, the attention of the applicant is directed to Rule 17.1(c) which provides that no designated Office may disregard the priority claim concerned before giving the applicant an opportunity, upon entry into the national phase, to furnish the priority document within a time limit which is reasonable under the circumstances.
- (If applicable)* An asterisk (\*) appearing next to a date of receipt, in the right-hand column, denotes a priority document submitted or transmitted to the International Bureau but not in compliance with Rule 17.1(a) or (b) (the priority document was received after the time limit prescribed in Rule 17.1(a) or the request to prepare and transmit the priority document was submitted to the receiving Office after the applicable time limit under Rule 17.1(b)). Even though the priority document was not furnished in compliance with Rule 17.1(a) or (b), the International Bureau will nevertheless transmit a copy of the document to the designated Offices, for their consideration. In case such a copy is not accepted by the designated Office as the priority document, Rule 17.1(c) provides that no designated Office may disregard the priority claim concerned before giving the applicant an opportunity, upon entry into the national phase, to furnish the priority document within a time limit which is reasonable under the circumstances.

<u>Priority date</u>	<u>Priority application No.</u>	<u>Country or regional Office or PCT receiving Office</u>	<u>Date of receipt of priority document</u>
22 January 2004 (22.01.2004)	0401326.4	GB	02 March 2005 (02.03.2005)

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland  Facsimile No. +41 22 740 14 35	Authorized officer  Lindner Nora  Facsimile No. +41 22 338 89 65 Telephone No. +41 22 338 9720
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------